

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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R 300932Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6476

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YROK

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALALUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

UNCLAS JAKARTA 11375

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ID, PO

SUBJ: GENERAL MORAIS DA SILVA SAYSPORTUGAL WILL DROP TIMOR
ISSUE AT UN

REF: JAKARTA 11200

1. PORTUGUESE PRESIDENTIAL ENVOY GENERAL MORAIS DA SILVA TOLD REPORTERS IN JAKARTA AUGUST 29 THAT PORTUGAS WILL NOT RAISE ISSUE OF EAST TIMOR AT UN OR ANY OTHER INTERNATIONAL FORUM BECUASE THE PROBLEM HAD ALREADY BEEN RESOLVED. HE SAID PORTUGAL HOPED THEREBY TO COUNTERACT OPPOSITION BY OTHER COUNTRIES TO INDONESIAN POSITION ON TIMOR. MORAIS DA SILVA EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR FRANK ATTITUDE OF GOI ON TIMOR ISSUE AND FOR INDONESIAN EFFORTS TO HELP REPATRIATE PORTUGUESE CITIZENS.

2. MORAIS DA SILVA ADMITTED THAT PROTUGAL HAD PREVIOUSLY INITIATED A RESOLUTION ATTACKING INDONESIA OVER TIMOR, BUT SAID UNCLASSIFIED

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NEW GOVERNMENT OF PORTUGAL TAKES A DIFFERENT VIEW AND PREFERS

TO TURN ITS ATTENTION TO DOMESTIC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. AS EVIDENCE OF NEW ATTITUDE, PORTUGUESE OBSERVER AT COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE HAD BEEN URGED BY AFRICANS TO SEPAK AGAINST INDONESIA ON TIMOR ISSUE BUT REFUSED TO DO SO. HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH THERE MIGHT STILL BE SOME PORTUGUESE WHO DID NOT YET SHARE THESE VIEWS, THEY WOULD QUICKLY CHANGE THEIR MINDS IF THEY COULD WITNESS INDONESIAN ASSISTANCE IN REPATRIATING PORTUGUESE CITIZENS FROM TIMOR.

3. ACCORDING TO MORAIS DA SILVA, PORTUGAL WILL ASSIGN TWO LIAISON OFFICERS TO DUTCH EMBASSY IN JAKARTA TO TAKE CARE OF PORTUGUESE INTEREST. HE SAID THEY WOULD SOUND OUT POSSIBILITIES FOR RESTORING DIPLMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND MIGHT EVEN BE CONSIDERED TO CONSTITUTE AND EMBRYONIC FORM OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONSHIP. HE DID NOT KNOW WHEN THEY WOULD BEGIN WORK BUT SAID IT WOULD BE SOON.

4. COMMENT: MORAIS DA SILVA'S REMAKRS ECHOED HIS PREVIOUS COMMENTS TO EFFECT THAT INTEGRATION OF EAST TIMOR INTO INDONESIA IS A FACT AND PORTUGAL WILL HAVE TO ACCEPT IT.HIS STATEMENTS GOT WIDE NEWSPAPER COVERAGE, INCLUDING PHOTO IN SEMI-OFFICIAL DAILY SUARA KARYA.
NEWSOM

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